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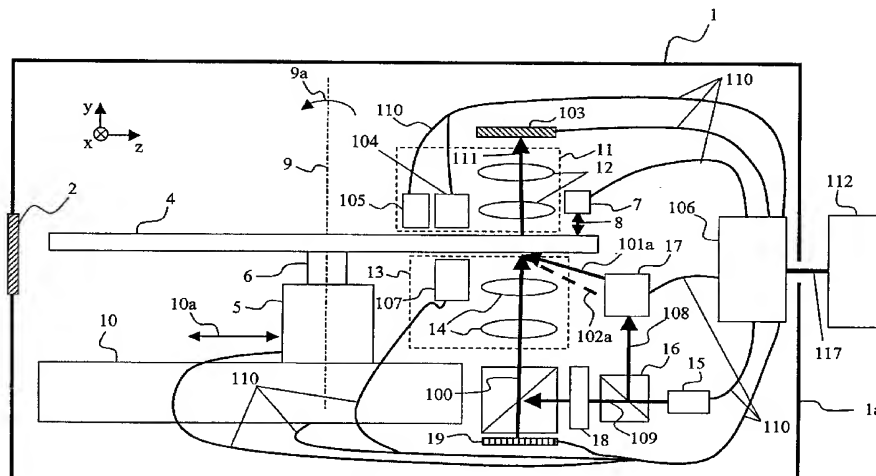
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(54) Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR THE FIXING OF HOLOGRAPHIC MEDIA IN HOLOGRAPHIC DATA STORAGE SYSTEMS



(57) **Abstract:** Holographic data storage systems are fixed after exposure during which data in the form of holograms are stored at locations in the medium (4). Sufficient fixing energy in the form of light or other electromagnetic and thermal radiation is applied to the media (4) either by flooding the media, or to specific locations where the medium has been written. The energy is sufficient to expose the recorded medium (4) to prevent recording in the unused dynamic range thereof. Such recording can be a spurious recording made during readout or from spurious sources of light incident on the media. In one embodiment, the reference beam (108) produced in the course of holographic recording is redirected to locations on the media (4) which have already been recorded. The redirected beam post exposes the media to fix these locations against spurious recording. The integrity of the holographic data storage systems and the robustness thereof is improved by fixing methods and apparatus incorporating the invention.

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